Contribution to GDP

1186. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is experiencing stagnation in food production and the agriculture's contribution to GDP is declining over the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years,year-wise;

(c) whether the National Commission on Farmers has made some suggestion for improvement in agricultural sector; and

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The total foodgrains production in the country and the contribution of agriculture (including livestock) to total - GDP at constant prices (1999-2000 prices) are given below:

Year	Production of foodgrains (Million Tonnes)	Contribution of Agriculture including Livestock to total GDP (%)
2003-04	213.19	19.9
2004-05	198.36	18.5
2005-06	208.59	18.0
2006-07	209.17	N.A. (not available)

(c) and (d) The important recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers for improvement in the agriculture sector are as follows:

- Making farming a lucrative profession by giving remunerative price for agricultural produce and increasing the net income of farmers.
- Substantial enhancement in the central budgetary allocation- for agriculture.
- Adoption of appropriate technology by farmers for higher production in different crops, development of food processing and creation of opportunities for large scale use of farm produce in industry.
- Thrust on multiple cropping system.

- Emphasis on land reforms with particular reference to tenancy laws, distribution of ceiling suplus land and consolidation of land holdings.
- Provision for supply of quality inputs—seeds, fertilizers, irrigation, pesticides etc.
- Bridging knowledge gap to tackle soil and crop health through balanced use of nutrients and proper crop management.
- Emphasis on technology, training and extension, credit and insurance.
- Stepping up capital investment in agriculture.

Some of the recommendations are already covered in the national agricultural policy. The rest are under consideration of the Government. The Union Budget 2007-08 makes a number of proposals to improve the economic viability of farming and ensure that farmers earn a minimum net income.

Wheat production

1187. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the last five years have been witnessing a downward swing of wheat production from 76 to 65 million tonnes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this production shortfall has emerged as the indisputable cause for high wheat prices; and

(c) whether country, which was the seventh largest exporters of wheat a few years ago, would be the largest wheat importer this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The wheat production during the last 5 years i.e., 2002-03 to 2006-07 is shown in the following table:

(Million Tonnes)

Year	Wheat Production
2002-03	65.76
2003-04	72.16
2004-05	68.64
2005-06	69.35
2006-07*	72.50

*2nd advance estimates released on 05.02.2007.